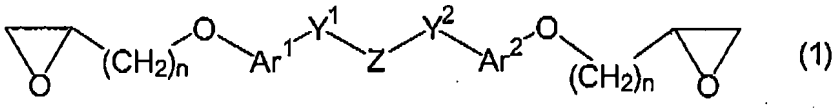
Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) An epoxy compound of formula (1):

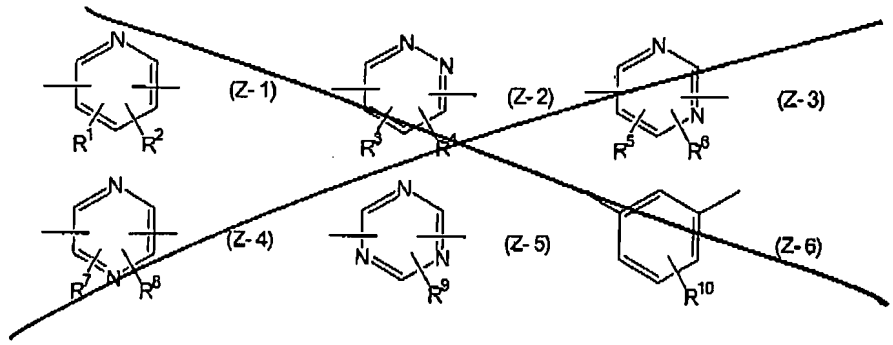


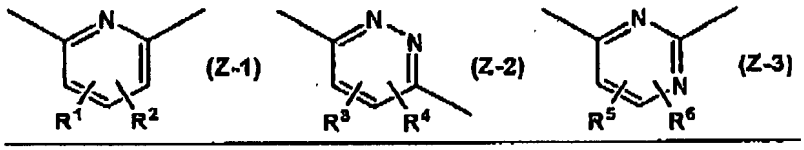
(1)

wherein n represents an integer of 1 to ~~9~~ 4,

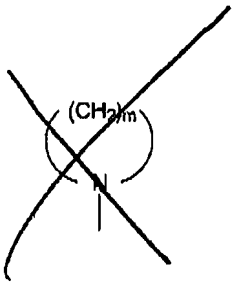
the $-(CH_2)_n-$ group may have inserted -O- ~~, or -N(R') -~~ between the methylene groups, ~~wherein R' represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-18} alkyl group;~~

Z represents any one of divalent groups of the following general formulas (Z-1) to ~~(Z-6)~~ (Z-3):



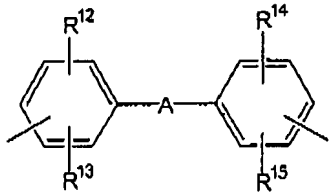


wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, ~~R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9 and R^{10}~~. R^5 and R^6 are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen ~~atom, a C_{1-18} alkyl group, an amino group substituted with one or two C_{1-18} alkyl groups, or a cyclic amino group of the following formula:~~

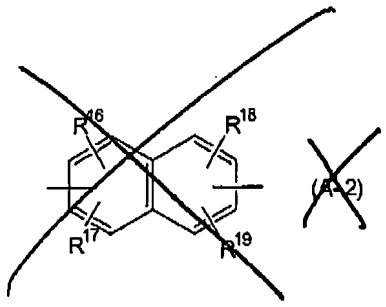


~~wherein m represents an integer of 4 to 12, and one methylene group or two or more not neighboring methylene groups of the C_{1-18} alkyl group or groups as defined in connection with R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9 or R^{10}, and of the cyclic amino group, may be replaced with -O-, -NH-, -N(R")- or -S-, wherein R" represents a C_{1-18} alkyl group,~~ atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group.

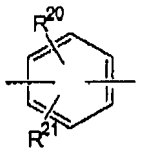
Ar^1 ~~and Ar^2 are the same or different and represent any one of groups~~ is a group of the following ~~formulas (A-1) to (A-3)~~ formula (A-1), and Ar^2 is a group of the following formula (A-1) or (A-3):



(A-1)

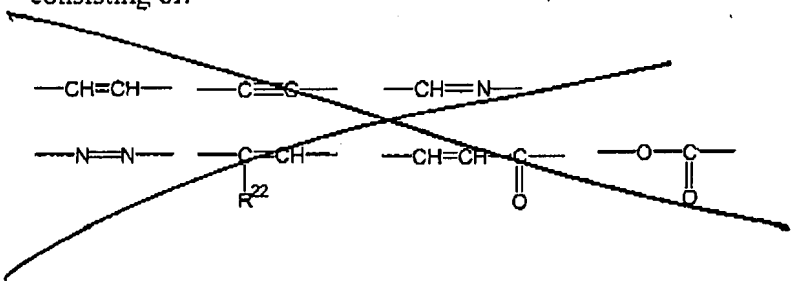


(A-2)



(A-3)

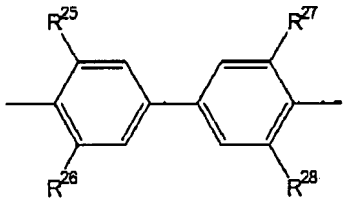
wherein A represents a single bond and ~~or any one group selected from the group consisting of:~~



wherein R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, ~~R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20}, R^{21} and R^{22}~~ R^{20} and R^{21} are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a ~~C_{1-18} alkyl~~ C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-8} alkoxy group, a cyano group, or a nitro group,

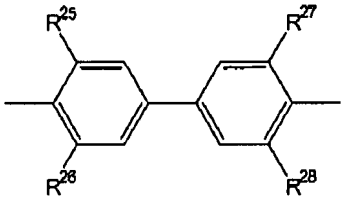
Y^1 and Y^2 ~~are the same or different and~~ each represent ~~a single bond~~, -O- ~~, -S-, or -Si(R^{23})(R^{24})-, wherein R^{23} and R^{24} are the same or different and represent independently a lower alkyl group or a phenyl group~~.

2. (Original) The epoxy compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar^1 and Ar^2 in formula (1) are the same or different and represent independently a group of the following formula:



wherein R^{25}, R^{26}, R^{27} and R^{28} are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

3. (Original) The epoxy compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar^1 and Ar^2 in formula (1) represent the same group of the following formula:



wherein R^{25}, R^{26}, R^{27} and R^{28} are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

4. (Previously presented) An epoxy composition, which comprises the epoxy compound as defined in claim 1 and a curing agent.

5. (Original) The epoxy composition according to claim 4, wherein the curing agent is an amine-type curing agent or a phenol type curing agent.

6. (Previously presented) A cured epoxy resin product obtained by curing the epoxy composition as defined in claim 4.

7. (Previously presented) A prepreg obtained by impregnating or coating a substrate with the epoxy composition of claim 4 and then semi-curing the epoxy composition.

8. (Previously presented) An epoxy composition, which comprises the epoxy compound as defined in claim 2 and a curing agent.

9. (Previously presented) An epoxy composition, which comprises the epoxy compound as defined in claim 3 and a curing agent.

10. (Previously presented) A cured epoxy resin product obtained by curing the epoxy composition as defined in claim 5.

11. (Previously presented) A prepreg obtained by impregnating or coating a substrate with the epoxy composition of claim 5 and then semi-curing the epoxy composition.